

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated May 1, 2002. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application of which Claims 1, 12, 13, and 14 are independent claims. Claims 3 and 5 are canceled by this amendment, without prejudice.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to because reference character 24 is used to designate both the "zoom lens" and the "swivel base". Upon review of the specification, it is noted that in fact the zoom lens is designated as 25 (see, e.g., specification, page 14, line 23). Accordingly, Applicants are submitting the change to the drawing as requested by the Examiner. The drawing correction is under separate cover, as required by MPEP §608.02. Approval of the corrected drawing is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to because 1 and 4 are used to designate "speaker". The specification is amended herein to coincide with the indications found on FIG. 1A, wherein designation 4 is used for the speaker and designation 1 is used for a camera. Upon review of the specification, no further problems with this designation were noted, however, on page 17, the paragraph beginning on line 15, an incomplete sentence was noted at the end

of the paragraph. This sentence is deleted herein. Accordingly, removal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,377,296 to Zlatsin ("Zlatsin") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,982,420 to Ratz ("Ratz").

Zlatsin shows a system for registering and tracking a device wherein prior to tracking, registration of an object with the system must be performed (see, Col. 4, lines 42-56). For registration purposes, a touching gesture (see, Col. 4, line 44-45) is combined with a verbal announcement, such as "these are my glasses". Thereafter, an image and attributes of the identified object are stored in a database. The image and stored attributes are thereafter utilized for tracking the object. This type of system wherein an object must be previously registered is fine for an inventory control system or a system for tracking a pre-set number of objects. This works because during registration, attributes of desired objects are acquired (see, Col. 5, lines 6-20) for later use during a query (see, Col. 5, lines 29-42).

This system is not useful when there is no registration such as during a teleconference etc. It is the system in accordance with the present invention that does away with the need for training. In fact Zlatsin suffers from the some problem as noted in other prior art in that "these systems lack the ability or the

flexibility to locate the target to be acquired and tracked. These systems must either rely on an operator to first select the object, or the object must exhibit a property that the system is preconfigured to detect." (see, page 3, lines 4-9).

In sharp contrast thereto, Zlatsin does not disclose or suggest (emphasis provided) "a method of locating and displaying an image of a target, the method comprising the steps of: sensing a triggering event generated by a human operator; receiving information that characterizes at least one machine-sensible feature of a target, said receiving step occurring substantially simultaneously with said sensing step; and aiming a camera responsive to results of said sensing and/or said receiving step, wherein said sensing step includes sensing a gesture indicting a direction of said target" as required by Claim 1 and as substantially required by each of Claims 12, 13, and 14.

Ratz does nothing to cure this deficiency in Zlatsin in that in Ratz, an object must first be acquired for tracking through the use of a trigger (for triggering target acquisition) and a joystick 22 (see, FIG. 1 and the accompanying description contained in Col. 12, lines 32-61).

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 12, 13, and 14 are patentable over Zlatsin in view of Ratz, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2, 4, and 6-11 depend from Claim 1 and

accordingly are allowable for at least this reason. Claim 15 depends from Claim 14 and accordingly is allowable for at least this reason.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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On September 3, 2002

By Neem Chgoe
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APPENDIX

AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Page 14, in the paragraph beginning on line 10, change as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to FIG. 1A, according to one embodiment of the invention, a tracking video system is automatically controlled by a speaker 4. A subject camera 1 (and, possibly another subject camera 44 depending on the technology used for identifying a pointing trajectory, subject acquisition and targeting, etc.) and a target camera 2 are trained on the speaker 4 and a target object 5, respectively. In the current embodiment, the speaker's 4 gestures and voice are used to control the object camera 2 to aim it targets of interest. The object camera 2 is mounted on a swivel base 24, which allows panning and tilting or other movements. The target camera is also equipped with a zoom lens 25. Both the zoom lens 25 and the swivel base 24 are under the control of a processor 3.

Page 17, in the paragraph beginning on line 16, change as follows:

A push-button 15 provides an auxiliary input, for example, it could be a triggering event to indicate the speaker's desire to aim the target camera 2 at a new target. The effect of the push-button

trigger event could be the same as that for the speech trigger event. ~~This triggering event could be the same as is~~

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A method of locating and displaying an image of a target, the method comprising the steps of:

sensing a triggering event generated by a human operator;

receiving information that characterizes at least one machine-sensible feature of a target, said receiving step occurring substantially simultaneously with said sensing step; and

aiming a camera responsive to results of said sensing and/or said receiving step, wherein said sensing step includes sensing a gesture indicting a direction of said target.

12. A method of locating and displaying an image of a target, the method comprising the steps of:

scanning an area within the range of at least one sensor;

identifying potential targets;

storing information concerning machine sensible characteristics and locations of said possible targets;

sensing a triggering event, said triggering event generated by a human operator;

receiving information that characterizes at least one feature of said target, said receiving step occurring substantially simultaneously with said sensing step; and

aiming a camera responsive to results of said sensing, storing and/or said receiving steps, wherein said sensing step includes sensing a gesture indicting a direction of said target.

13. A method of aiming a camera at a target, comprising the steps of:

inputting an indication of a position of a target;

inputting further information about a machine-sensible characteristic of said target;

aiming a camera at said target responsively to said indication using said further information to reduce an error in said aiming, wherein said inputting an indication step includes inputting a gesture indicting a direction of said target.

14. A method of acquiring a target, comprising the steps of:

inputting spatial information to indicate a position of a target;

inputting further information about said target; and

orienting an instrument with respect to said target to acquire said target responsively to said spatial information while using said further information to reduce an ambiguity in said position,

wherein said spatial information includes sensing a gesture
indicating a direction of said target.